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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSIN



VINCE HERNANDEZ
LOBI HANSON
JONATHAN BOLERJACK
JOHN STARR
JOSH REED
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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT



DIZ
SOTERO

INTRODUCING
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

Sophora

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A

ASSASSINS



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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

INTRODUCING
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

Sophora



The story so far...

They are raised from their youth with strict obedience and brutally trained to protect and serve their respective masters with discipline, loyalty and often times violence, if necessary. They are the Executive Assistants.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS

LOST AT SEA

PART 1 OF 2

WRITER
VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS
LORI "CROSS" HANSON

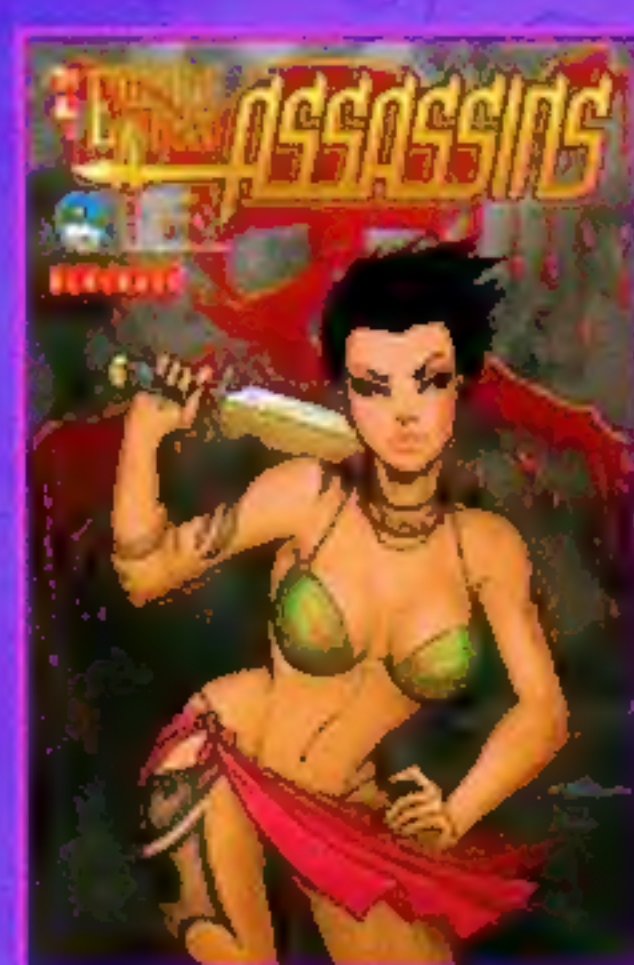
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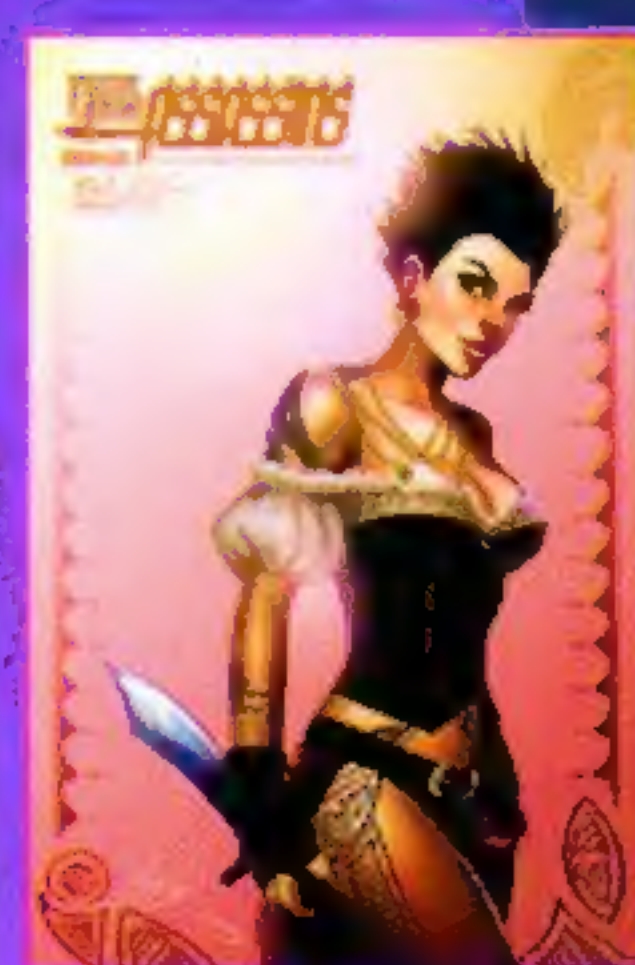
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THE SEAS NEAR
TONGATAPU ISLAND

THE OCEAN WINDS ABIDE OUR
MEETING. NORMALLY, THIS TIME
OF THE SEASON, THE TIDES
HAVE A MIND OF THEIR OWN.

HOWEVER, TODAY,
NOTHING BUT CALM SEAS
FOR ENDLESS KNOTS.
I'D SAY...



IT'S A PERFECT
DAY TO PERISH.

PLEASE!
LET ME
GO!

I WOULD DO SO
WILLINGLY AND WITH
MUCH PLEASURE, IF YOU
WOULD JUST DIVULGE
THE INFORMATION
I SEEK.

HRRGGH! WHO
ARE YOU?! WHY
HAVE YOU TAKEN
ME HOSTAGE?!

WHO
AM I?

I AM
AN EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT. DO
YOU KNOW WHAT
THAT IS?

IT MEANS I
AM THE MASTER
OF YOUR FATE.

PLEASE--
I'M JUST A VESSEL
MERCHANT. I HAVE
NOT CROSSED YOU
IN ANY WAY.

YOU SPEAK
THE TRUTH.
HOWEVER...

...YOUR MOTIVE
I COULD CARE
LESS ABOUT. IT IS
THE INFORMATION
YOU POSSESS I
COVET.

WHICH OF
YOUR SHIPS ON AIS*
IS CARRYING THE CAPTIVE
MEN TAKEN BY THE TONGAN
GOVERNMENT? GIVE
ME A NAME.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT!

* AUTOMATIC
IDENTIFICATION
SYSTEM.



AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.

YOU DRINK WHILE WE WORK?

THIS DOES NOT SEEM FAIR TO ME.

YOUR INSTINCTS ARE WELL FOUNDED, GANO. IT IS NOT FAIR, AS ARE MANY THINGS IN LIFE.

IF I WERE TO TAKE THIS ROPE HERE AND STRANGLE YOU WITH IT, YOU WOULD BE UNABLE TO STOP ME-- THAT IS UNFAIR, IS IT NOT?

UM... DEFINITELY, UNFAIR.

YET, I CHOOSE NOT TO KILL YOU ON A DAILY BASIS. SO, WHILE ON THE ONE HAND IT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE WRONG THAT YOU WORK WHILE I WATCH, REALLY, THE ALTERNATIVE COULD BE MUCH WORSE. CORRECT?

PSYCHO BITCH.

HAHAHAHA!

YOU GOT ME THERE.

HELP ME WITH THE HOIST?

SURE THING, LET ME DOWN THIS FIRST.



WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE FINDS SO FUNNY?

WHO GIVES A F**K?

THE WOMAN DOESN'T DO ANYTHING WE CANNOT, YET SHE IS TREATED AS LA NOCHE TRISTE, OR SOME OTHER LOST TREASURE.

YOU WOULD BE WISE NOT TO LET BOSS HEAR SUCH WORDS, MARKEL.

TIKOTÉ KNOWS MY LOYALTY LIES UNDER HIS FLAG-- ALWAYS. BUT IT ENDS WITH HIS HAND. I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM HER, OR YOU, LANDON.



EASE YOURSELF, I DID NOT INTEND TO RILE YOU, ALTHOUGH THE TASK IS NOT TOO DIFFICULT.

DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MY FEELINGS. I KNOW MY PLACE, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT WILL SOON DISCOVER THEIRS.



TOUGH WORDS, MARKEL.

ONES I ANTICIPATE YOU WILL ENFORCE ON YOUR NEXT MISSION?

OF COURSE, TIKOTÉ, I REMAIN READY FOR THE TASK-- ALWAYS.



AND WHAT OF YOU, LANDON?

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, BOSS.

WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT.

LATER...

CHING

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL AT THE ACADEMY, MY TEACHER WAS RUTHLESS.

SHE BEAT THE \$HIT OUT OF ME DAILY. I CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

CRACK

YOU FORCE THE ATTACK TOO SUDDEN.

IT LEAVES YOU EXPOSED.

HRAAAA!

YOU ARE ALSO STUBBORN.

AND ONE DAY--



--IT WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL.



SMASH



HAD ENOUGH?

PERHAPS.
BUT, I ALMOST HAD YOU.



WE'LL HAVE TO WORK ON YOUR DEFINITION OF THE WORD "ALMOST."

I DON'T CRY MYSELF TO SLEEP THESE DAYS, BUT, I WILL NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO BE AT EASE KNOWING THE NEXT PAINFUL LESSON MAY BE JUST AROUND THE CORNER...



...AND I NEVER FORGET THIS.

WHERE IS YOUR HONOR, ALLOWING HER TO BEAT YOU IN EXHIBITION AS SO?

WE ARE PIRATES, MARKEL, AND YOU SPEAK TO ME OF HONOR?

THAT IS BESIDE THE POINT. WE DO WHAT WE MUST FOR SURVIVAL, FOR EACH OTHER. BUT, TO LET A WOMEN LIKE *HER* KICK YOUR ASS IN FRONT OF THE CREW, WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WILL SAY?

NO ONE BUT *YOU* QUESTIONS IT. SHE IS TIKOTE'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. SHE IS TRAINED TO KILL, DO YOU SUSPECT YOU WOULD FARE BETTER?

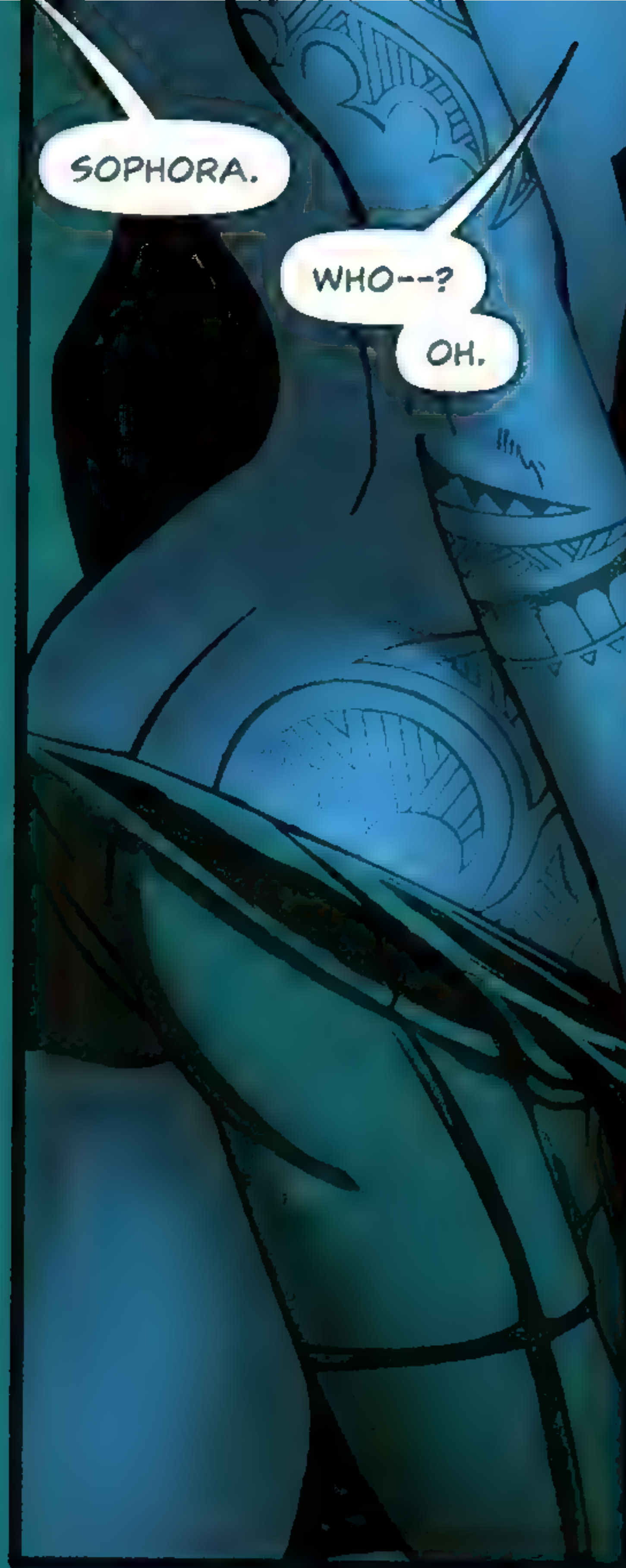
I DO NOT SUSPECT-- I KNOW.

SHE MAY BE TRAINED IN THE ART OF KILLING, BUT I AM BRED FOR IT.

COME...

...LET US SHOW THE CREW OF THE SEA VOYAGER THE TRUTH BEHIND MY WORDS.





SOPHORA.

WHO---

OH.

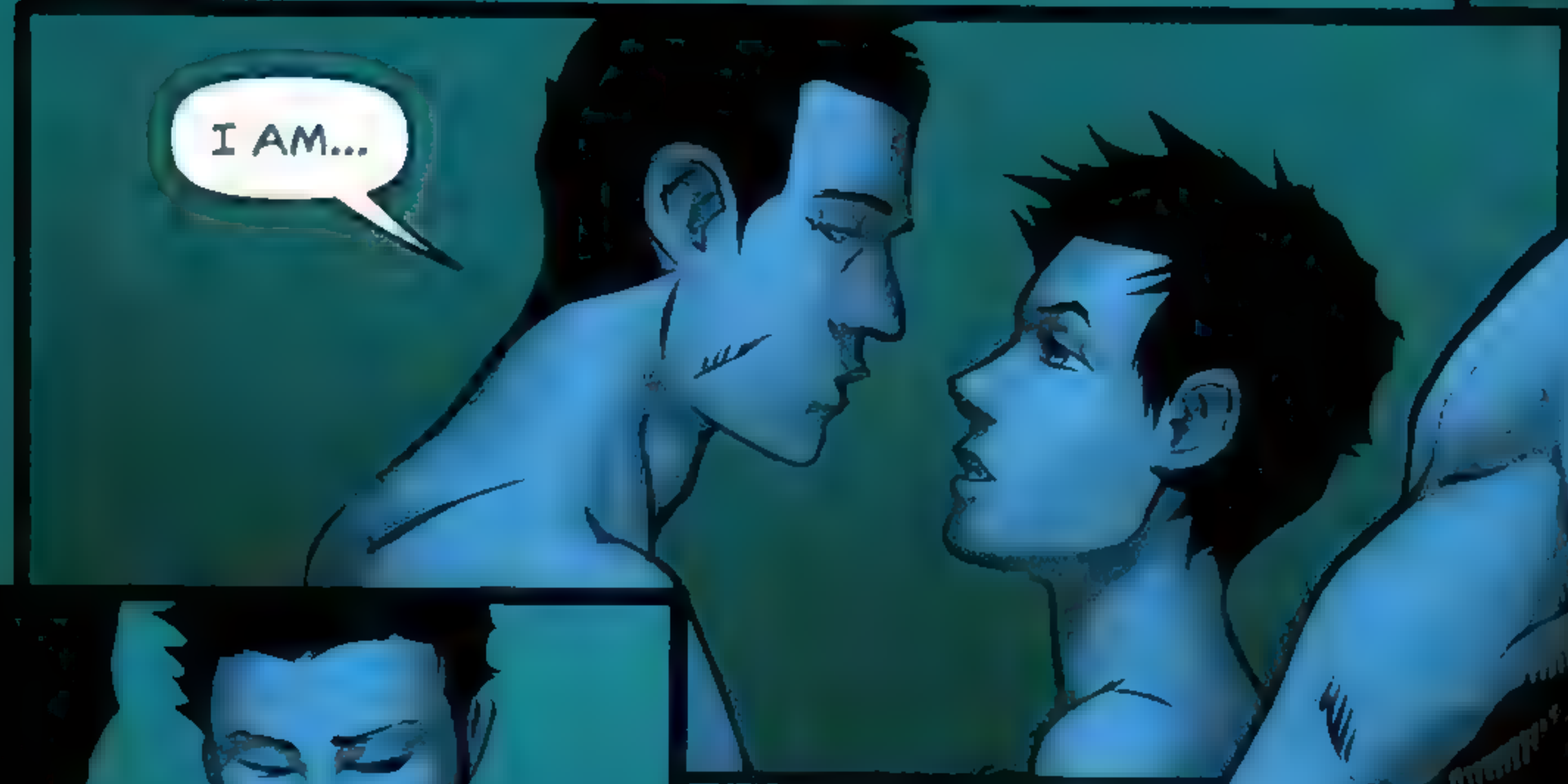


LONDON,
DON'T STARTLE
ME LIKE THAT.

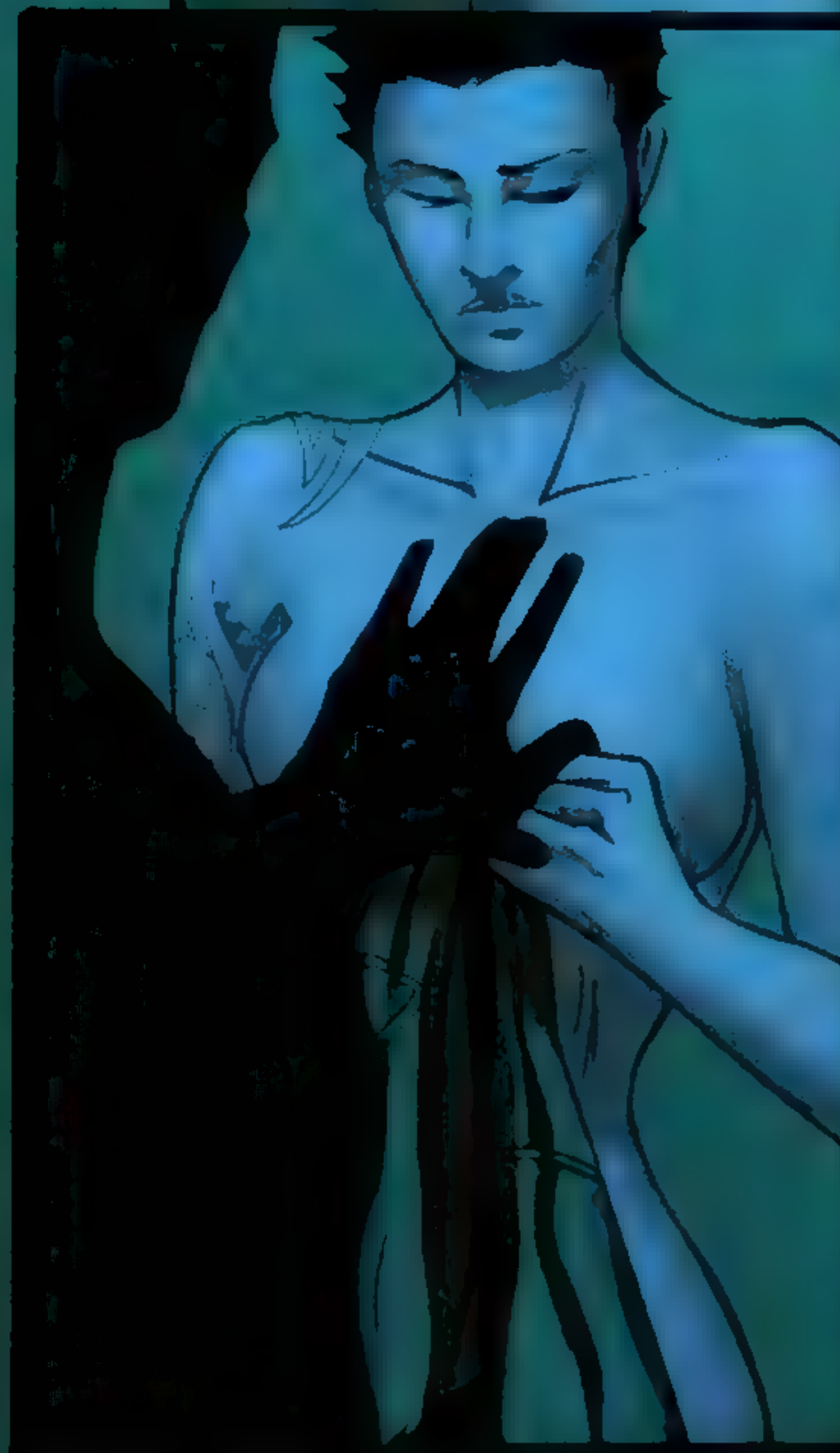
I ASSUMED YOU'D
BE UNAFRAID OF
ALL INTRUDERS.



IS THAT
WHAT YOU ARE,
AN INTRUDER? PERHAPS
I SHOULD SNAP YOUR
NECK HERE AND
NOW THEN.



I AM...



...WHATEVER
YOU WANT ME
TO BE.



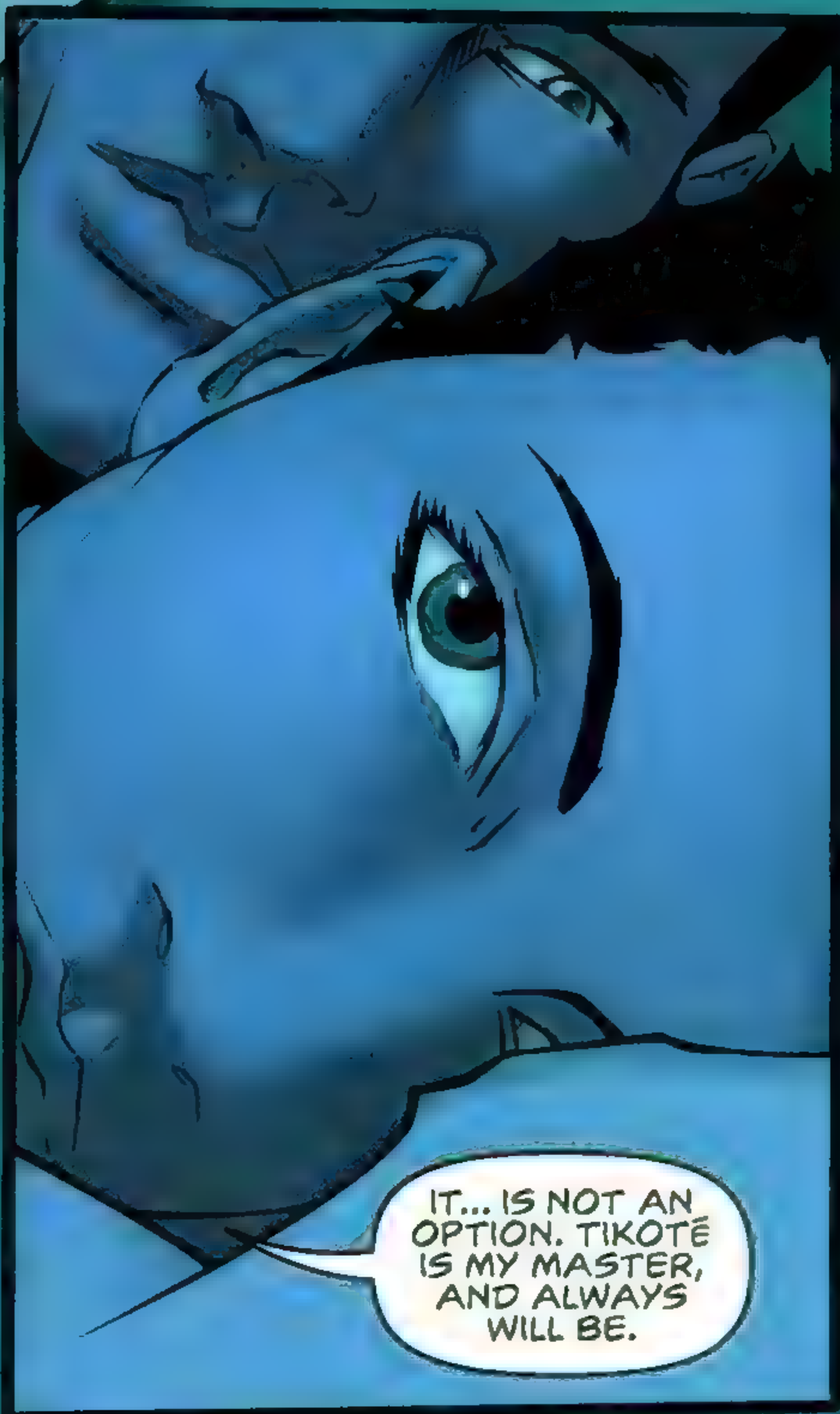
I WANT YOU.

YOU JUST HAD ME.

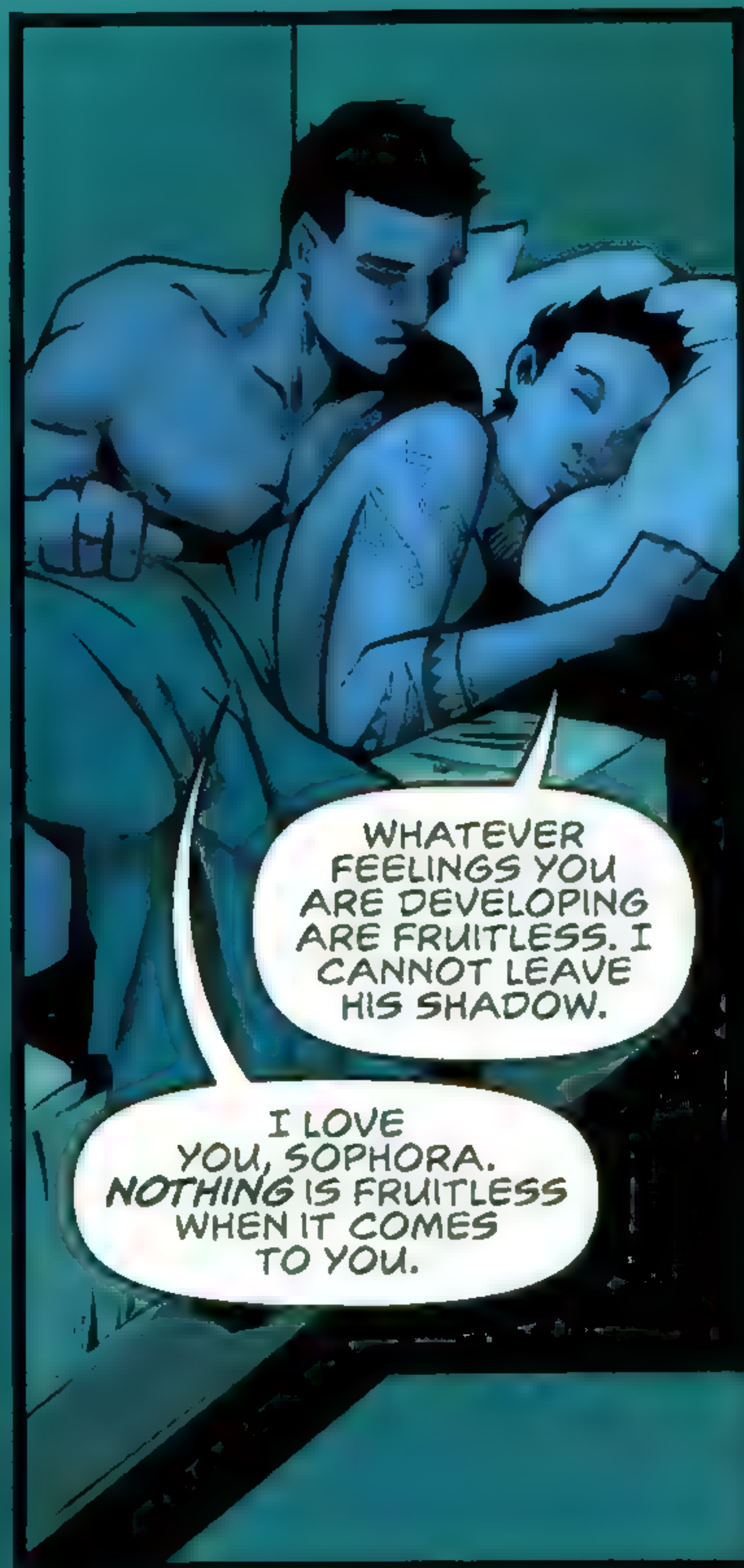


I MEAN ALL OF YOU.

I WANT TO FREE YOU.

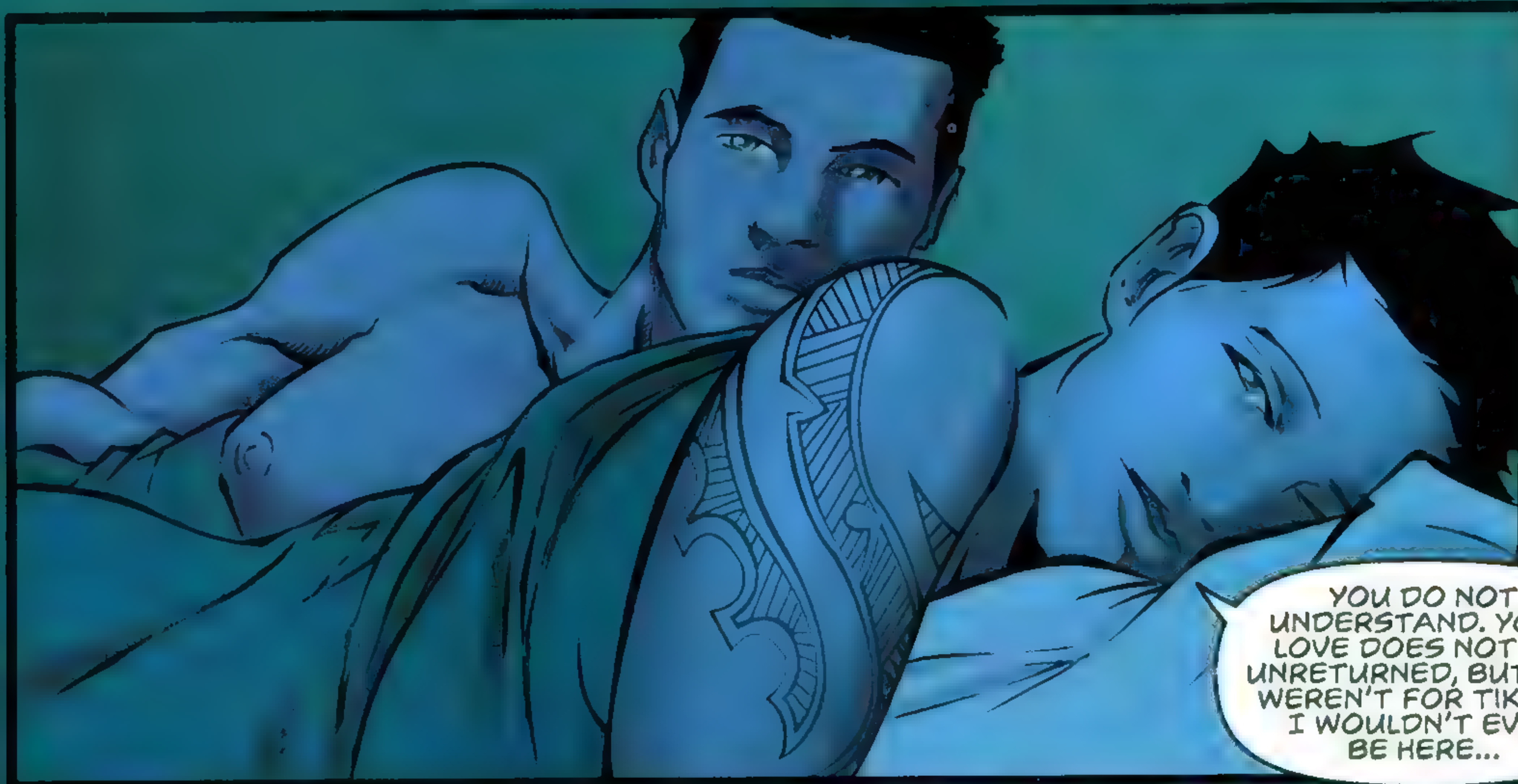


IT... IS NOT AN OPTION. TIKOTÉ IS MY MASTER, AND ALWAYS WILL BE.



WHATEVER FEELINGS YOU ARE DEVELOPING ARE FRUITLESS. I CANNOT LEAVE HIS SHADOW.

I LOVE YOU, SOPHORA. NOTHING IS FRUITLESS WHEN IT COMES TO YOU.



YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. YOUR LOVE DOES NOT GO UNRETURNED, BUT IF IT WEREN'T FOR TIKOTÉ, I WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE...

I HAD SPENT SIXTEEN YEARS
WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE SCHOOL,
AND FINALLY SOMEONE CHOSE
ME TO SERVE THEM.

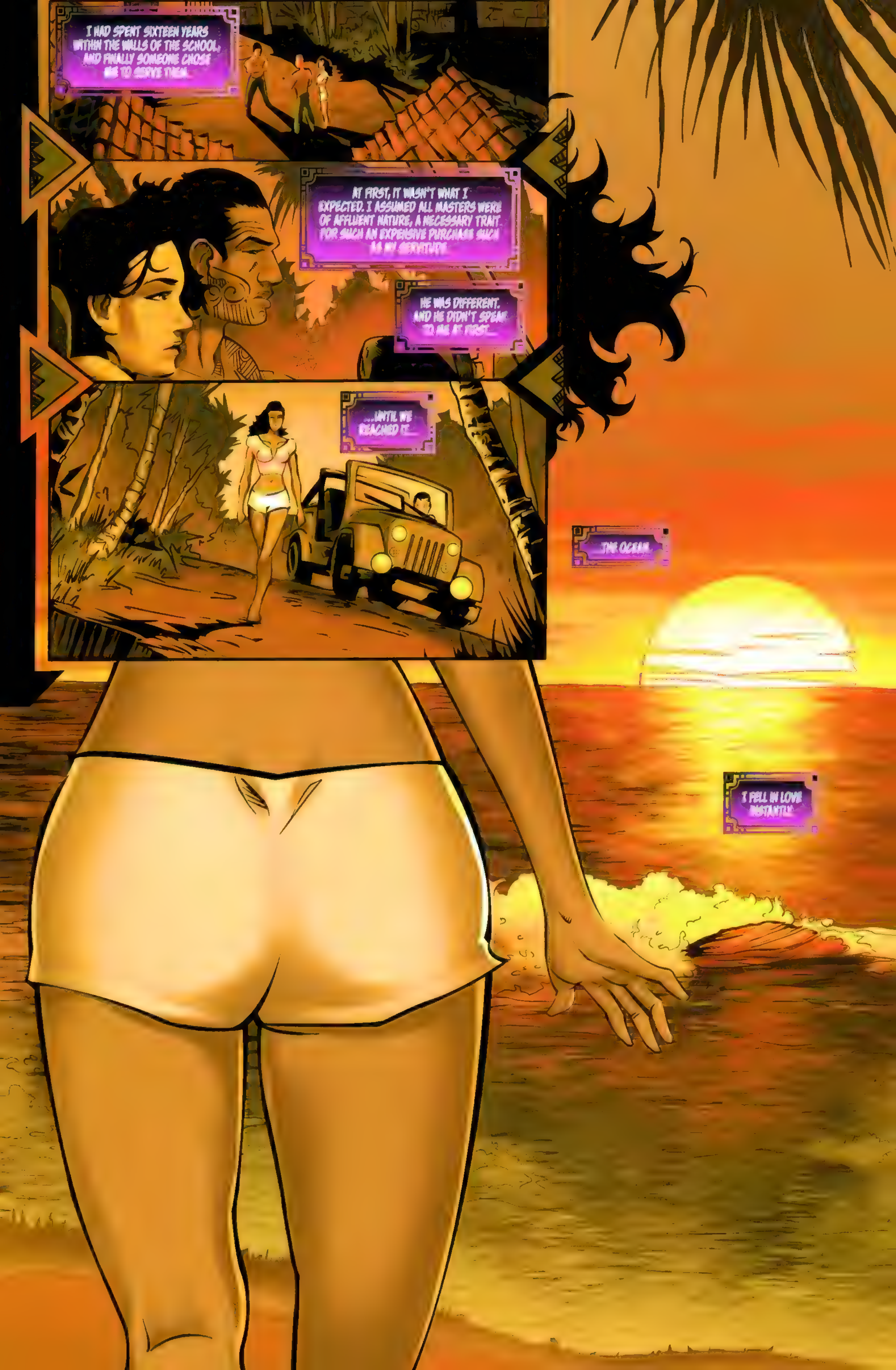
AT FIRST, IT WASN'T WHAT I
EXPECTED. I ASSUMED ALL MASTERS WERE
OF AFFLUENT NATURE, A NECESSARY TRAIT
FOR SUCH AN EXPENSIVE PURCHASE SUCH
AS MY SERVITUDE.

HE WAS DIFFERENT.
AND HE DIDN'T SPEAK
TO ME AT FIRST.

...UNTIL WE
REACHED IT.

THE OCEAN.

I FELL IN LOVE
INSTANTLY.



ONLY IN STOLEN PICTURES
HAD I SEEN THE WATER, BUT
NOW IT SURROUNDED ME
EVERYWHERE I WENT.

I KNEW THE REST OF THE
CREW BELIEVED ME A JOKE,
BUT, I PAID NO MIND TO IT. I
WAS UNDER THE CAPTAIN'S
WING. I WAS READY TO
SERVE HIM.

...READY TO
KILL FOR HIM.

CLICK



MY SCHOOL WAS ONE OF THE BEST -- MY ABILITIES WERE FAR BETTER THAN ANY OF THE CREW.

BANG
BANG
BANG



I SOON BECAME OUR BEST WEAPON. OUR RIVALS NEVER SAW ME COMING.



AND I MADE SURE I WAS THE LAST THING THEY EVER SAW.

SOON, I HAD ELIMINATED ALL OF OUR MAJOR ADVERSARIES. THE OCEAN BELONGED TO ME.



THAT IS WHEN I LEARNED THE TRUE COST
OF THE PLEASURES I FOUND AT SEA.

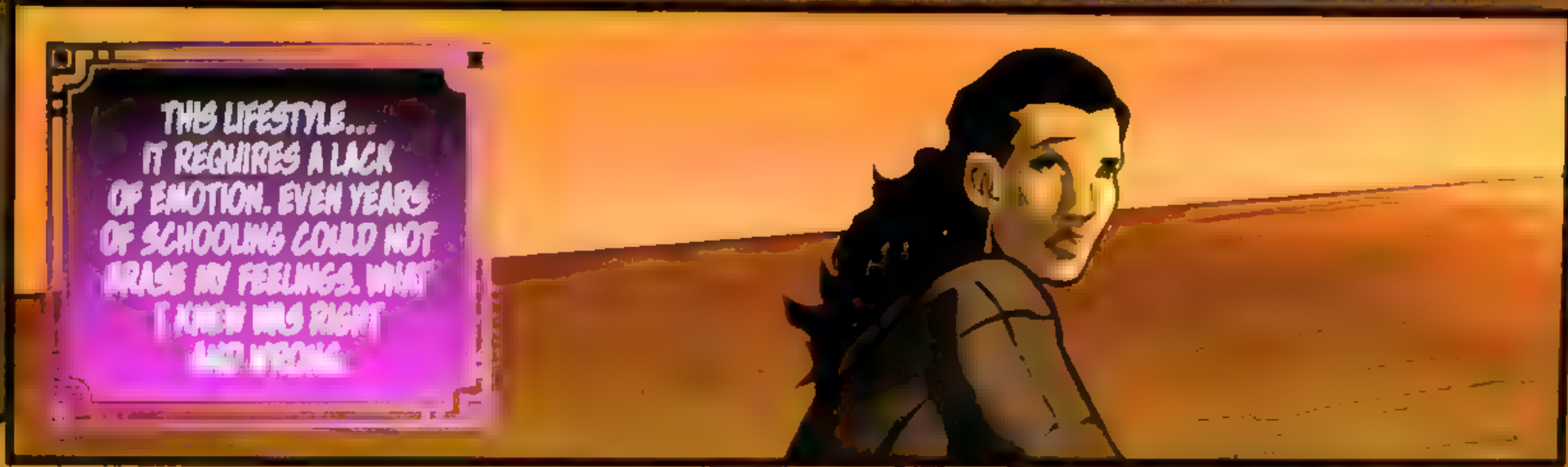


WASTE
OF F***KING
TIME. THERE'S
NOTHING HERE
OF WORTH.
KILL THEM
ALL.

WHY?
THEY DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING.



IT'S NOT
WHAT THEY'VE
DONE, IT'S WHAT
THEY'VE SEEN. ACT
LIKE YOU BELONG
AND SEE TO
YOUR TASK!



THIS LIFESTYLE...
IT REQUIRES A LACK
OF EMOTION. EVEN YEARS
OF SCHOOLING COULD NOT
WASH MY FEELINGS. WHAT
I KNEW WAS RIGHT
AND WRONG.

ALTHOUGH IT
DIDN'T MATTER



BANG
BANG
BANG

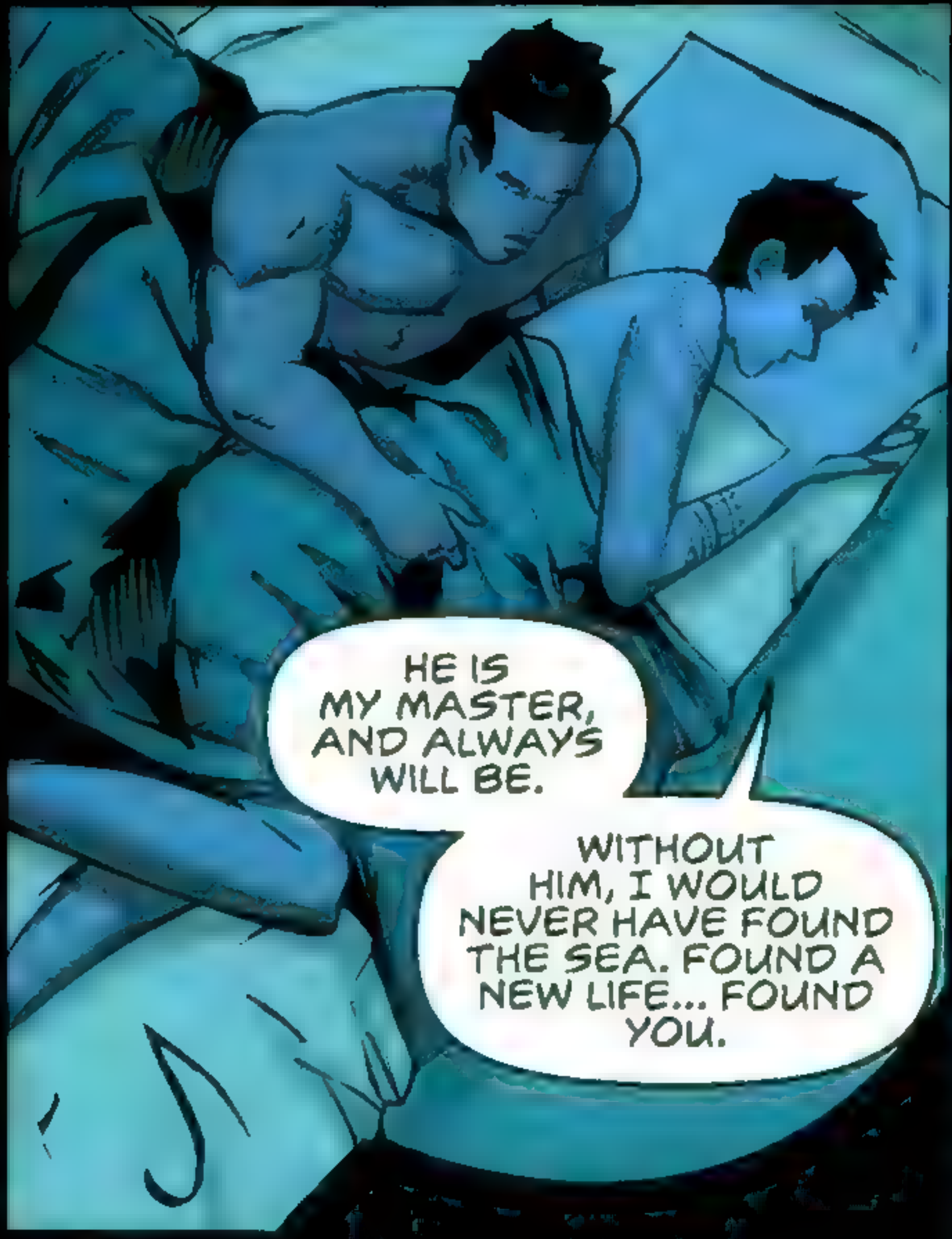
THE TEARS
RETURNED
THAT DAY.

MASTER... DID NOT SEEK TO
PUNISH ME FOR MY WEAKNESS.

INSTEAD HE SHOWED
COMPASSION.

HE TOLD ME I WAS HIS
PRECIOUS FLOWER, AND
HE WOULD NEVER ALLOW
ANYTHING TO HAPPEN
TO ME.

NOR DID HE
EVER TRY.

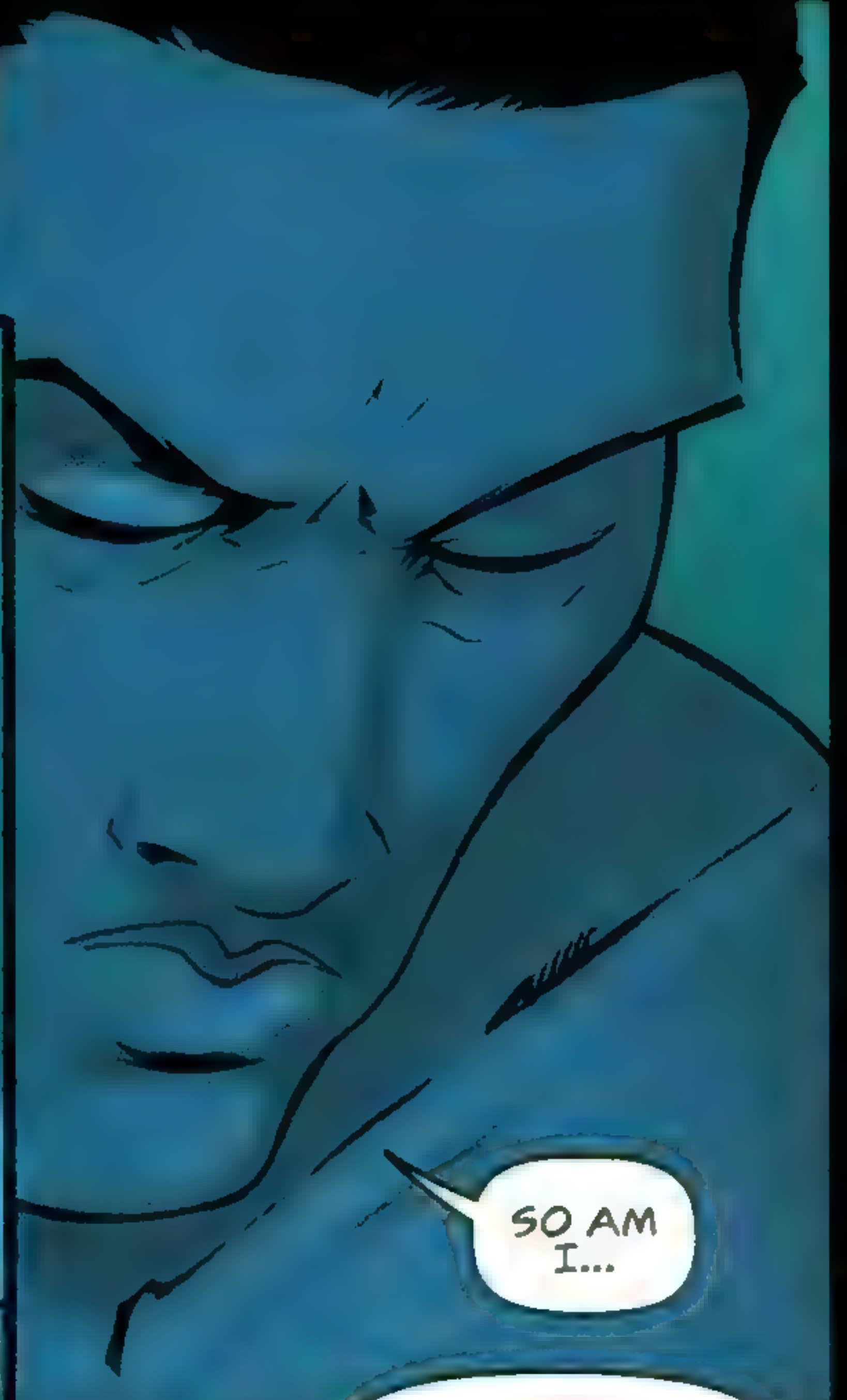


HE IS
MY MASTER,
AND ALWAYS
WILL BE.

WITHOUT
HIM, I WOULD
NEVER HAVE FOUND
THE SEA. FOUND A
NEW LIFE... FOUND
YOU.



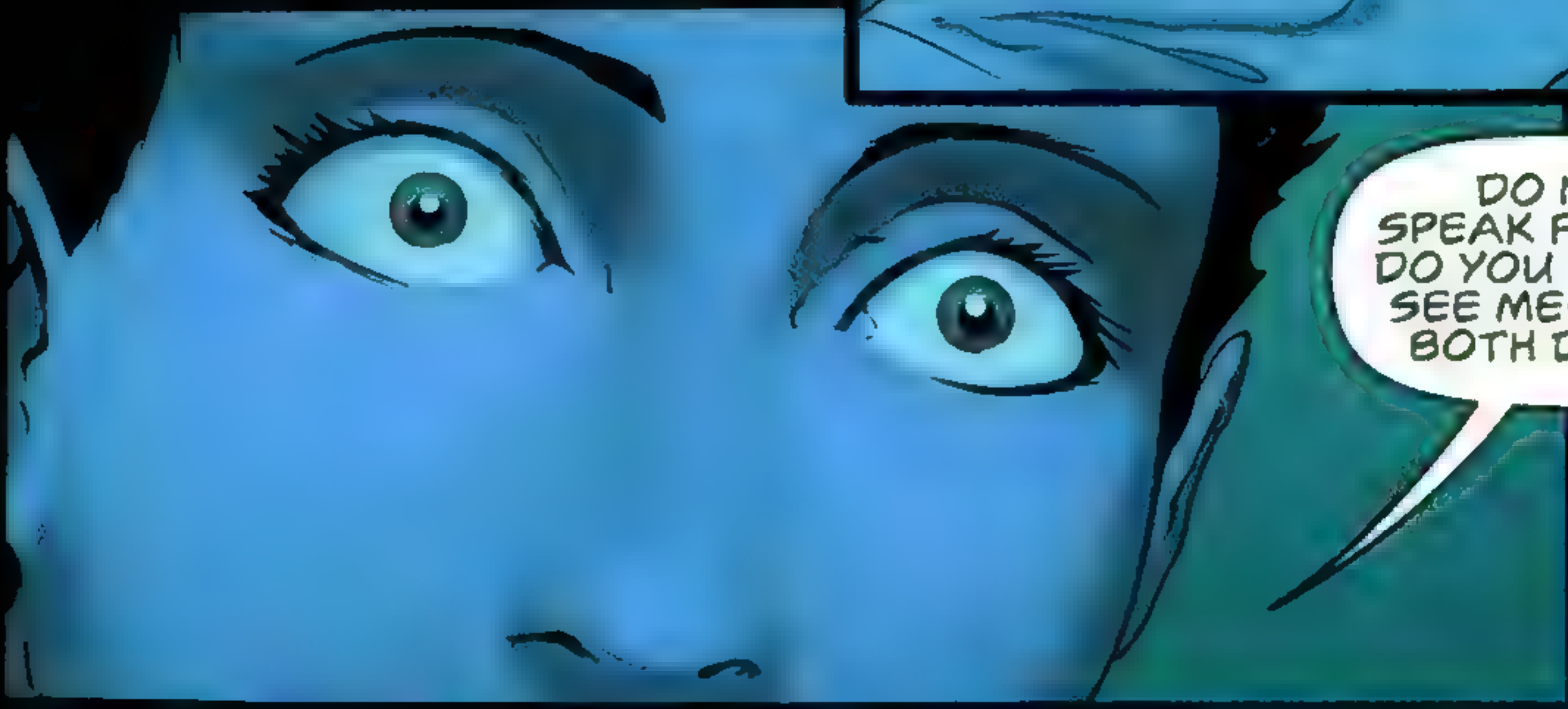
SO, YOU
SEE, I CANNOT
BETRAY THE TRUST
HE HAS GIVEN ME.
I AM SORRY.



SO AM
I...

...BECAUSE I
CANNOT LOVE
YOU AS I DO, AND
ALLOW HIM TO
HAVE YOU.

EVEN
IF IT MEANS
MUTINY.



DO NOT
SPEAK FOOLISH!
DO YOU WISH TO
SEE ME-- US--
BOTH DEAD?!

I ONLY
SEEK OUR
FREEDOM--
TOGETHER,
NO MATTER
WHAT THE
COST.



THE NEXT NIGHT...

WE SUBDUE THE
CREW FIRST, THEN
MOVE ON THE SCORE,
UNDERSTOOD?

FWOOK



IN SCHOOL, THEY
TAUGHT US ABOUT
HAZARD WARNINGS.

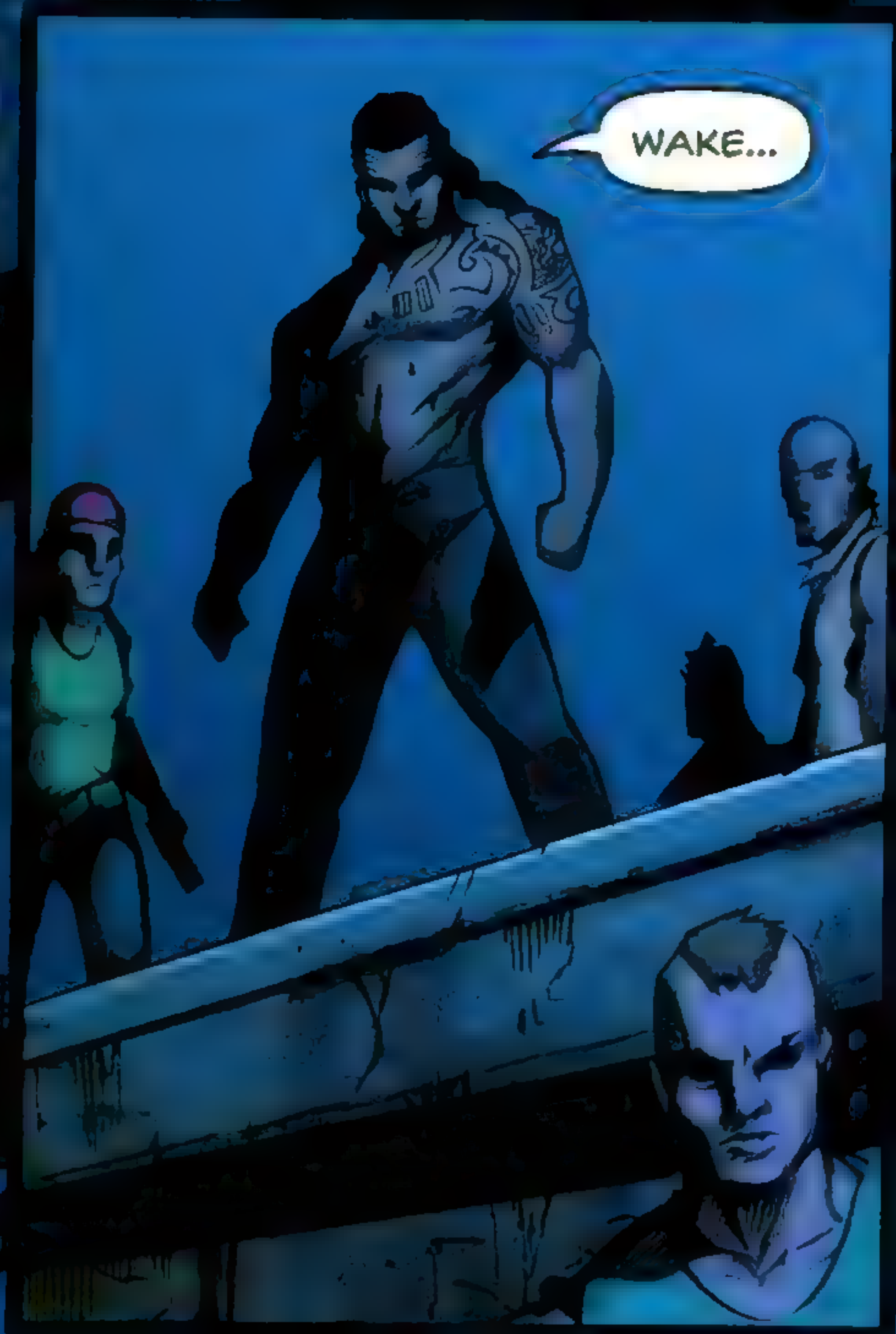
A HAZARD WARNING IS AN EXTRA SENSE
BUILT UP OVER TIME, WHEN SOMETHING
DOES NOT FEEL RIGHT ON A MISSION.

...WE ARE TAUGHT
TO REGISTER AND RELY ON
THIS SENSE TO THWART ANY
DANGEROUS SURPRISES.

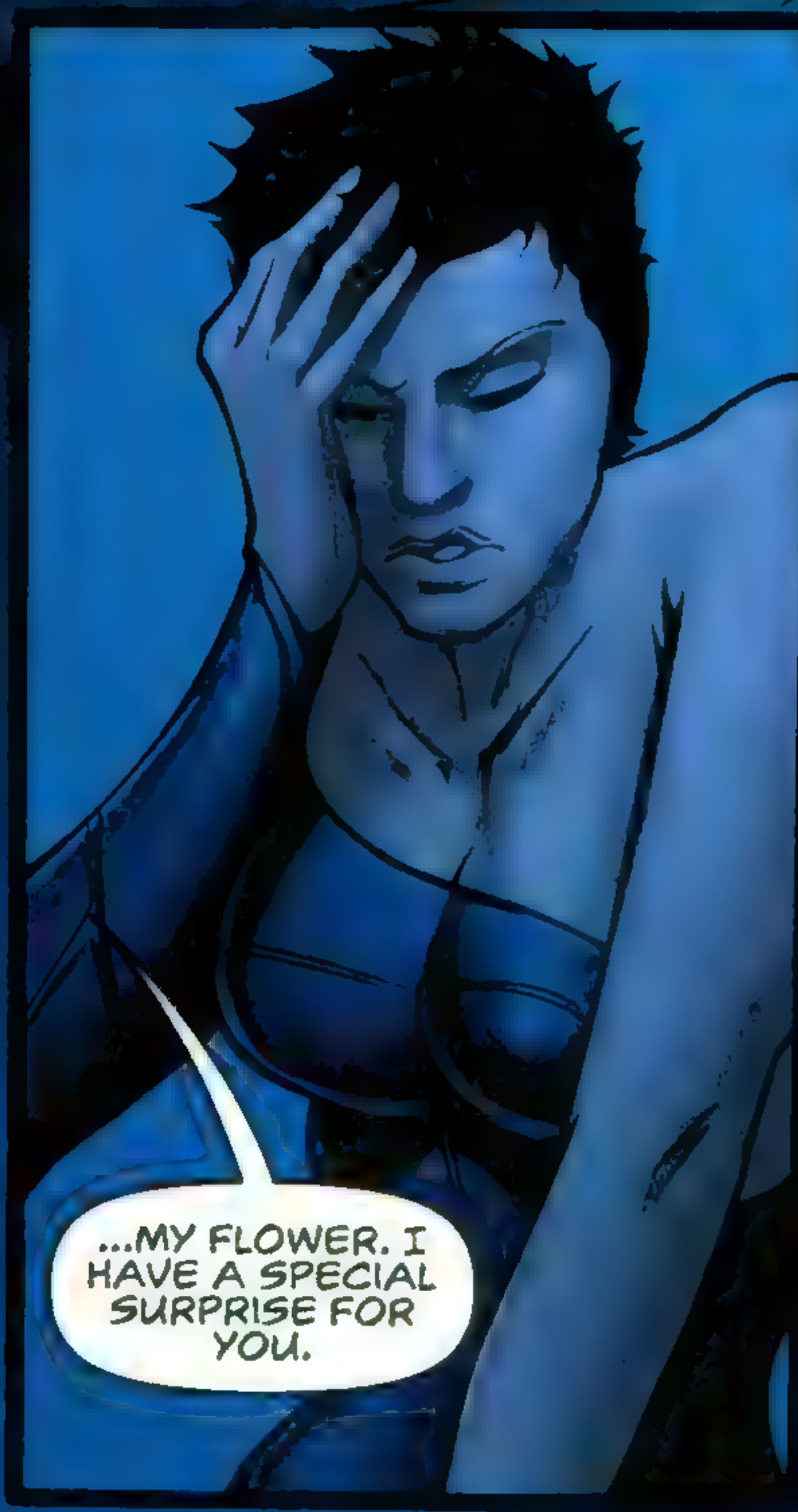
...MINE HAS
FAILED ME.

THIS SHIP
IS EMPTY.
THERE'S NO
ONE--

CRACK



WAKE...



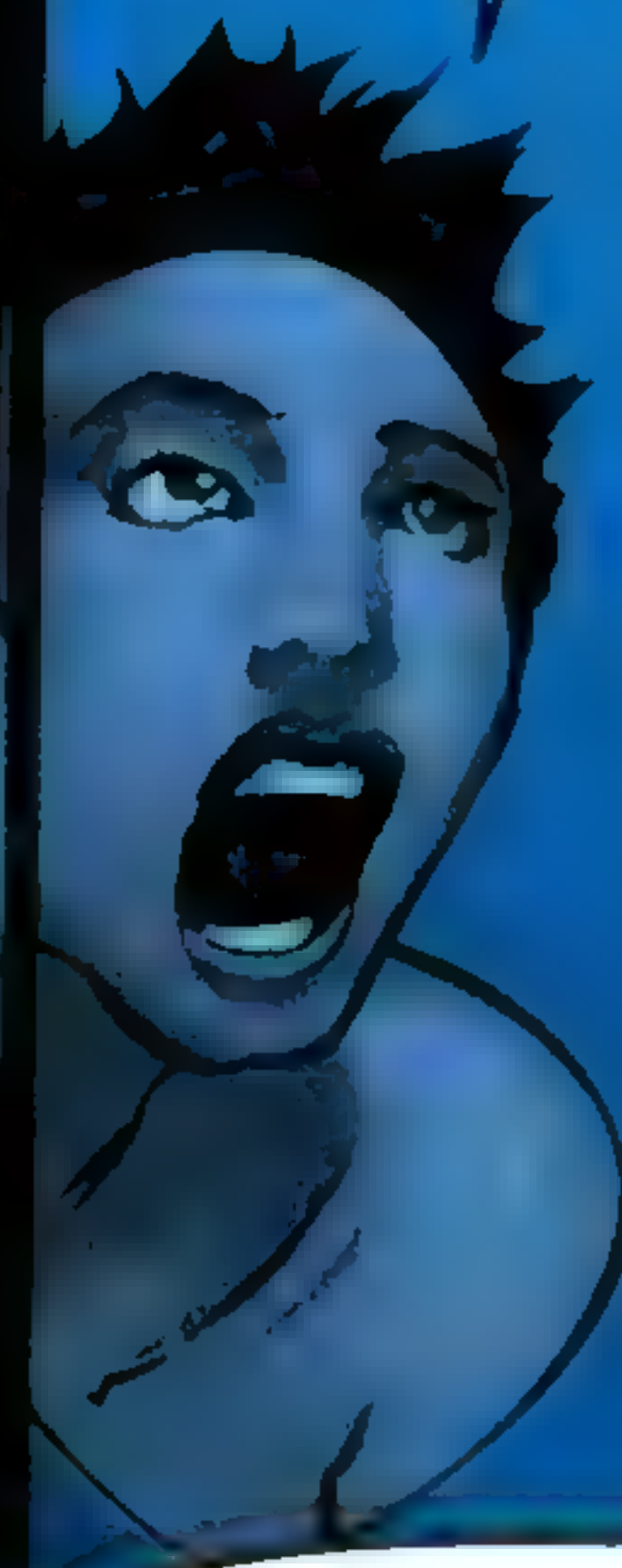
...MY FLOWER. I HAVE A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR YOU.



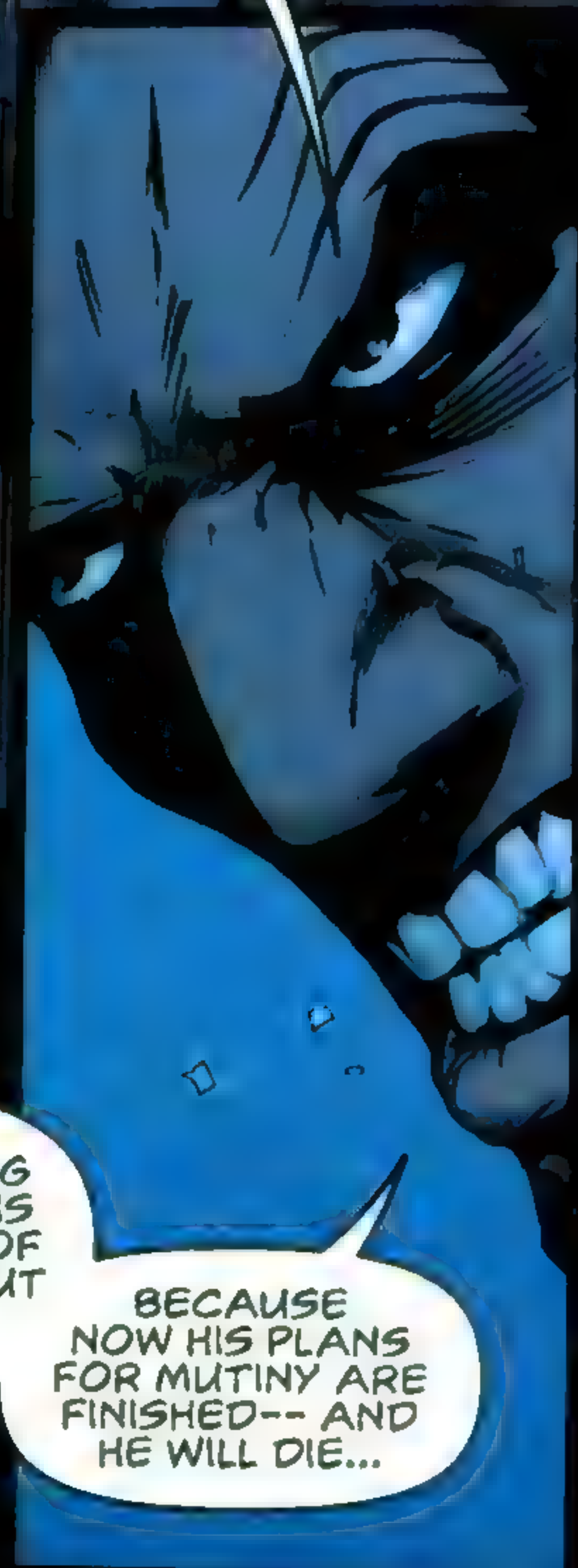
NO!

JUDGING FROM YOUR REACTION, MY SUSPICIONS ARE NOT UNFOUNDED. HAVE I NOT BEEN LOYAL TO YOU ALL THIS TIME, SOPHORA?

YES, TIKOTÉ! YOU ARE A JUST AND FORGIVING MASTER. PLEASE DO NOT HURT HIM, HE HAS DONE NOTHING. IT IS ALL MY FAULT!



LIES. YOUR LOVER CONFESSED EVERYTHING WHILE YOU WERE OUT. HIS COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DEATH IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT ALSO HIS ULTIMATE SHORTCOMING.



BECAUSE NOW HIS PLANS FOR MUTINY ARE FINISHED-- AND HE WILL DIE...



...WITH
YOUR HAND
PULLING THE
TRIGGER.

TO BE CONTINUED...

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: **David Wohl** (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and **Michael Turner** (Fathom, Soulfire)

**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**

ASSASSINS #5

**Aspen's First Ever
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WRITTEN BY: **VINCE HERNANDEZ**
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INKS BY: **JONATHAN BOLERJACK**
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**LOST
AT SEA
PART 2 OF 2**



**TONY PARKER
COVER A**

**ON SALE
NEXT MONTH!**

**ELIZABETH TORQUE
COVER B**



**BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT**

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LORI "CROSS" HANSON
COLORS: MARK "ROZ" ROSLAN

Tarutaru

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Hack/Slash

novus